

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION**

DENNIS L. SLAGLE,)
Plaintiff,)
v.) No. 1:13-CV-154-SNLJ
BILL STANGE, et al.,)
Defendants.)

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

This matter is before the Court on review of plaintiff's pro se complaint [Doc. #1]. The complaint is defective because it has not been drafted on a Court-provided form. *See* Local Rule 2.06(A). Moreover, the Court will not accept plaintiff's attempts to supplement his complaint on a piecemeal basis [Docs # 4-7]. All claims in an action must be included in one, centralized complaint form, as neither the Court nor defendants wish to search through supplemental pleadings in order to piece together plaintiff's claims. Because plaintiff is proceeding pro se, the Court will allow him to file an amended complaint, as set forth below.

In filing his amended complaint, plaintiff must be mindful that the number of claims a litigant may assert in a single action is limited by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 20(a)(2), which provides:

Persons . . . may be joined in one action as defendants if: (A) any right to relief is asserted against them jointly, severally, or in the alternative with respect to or arising out of the same transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences; and (B) any question of law or fact common to all defendants will arise in the action.

Thus, a plaintiff cannot normally seek to join in one lawsuit a multitude of claims against a host of different defendants, relating to events arising out of a series of different occurrences or transactions. In other words, "Claim A against Defendant 1 should not be joined with unrelated Claim B against Defendant 2." *George v. Smith*, 507 F.3d 605, 607 (7th Cir. 2007). "Unrelated claims against different defendants belong in different suits, . . . [in part] to ensure that prisoners pay the required filing fees - for the Prison Litigation Reform Act limits to 3 the number of frivolous suits or appeals that any prisoner may file without prepayment of the required fees." *Id.*

Therefore, in filing his amended complaint, plaintiff should select the transaction or occurrence he wishes to pursue, in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, limiting his facts and allegations to the defendant(s) involved in said occurrence. Plaintiff should only include in his amended complaint those claims that arise out of the same transaction or occurrence. *See Fed.R.Civ.P. 20(a)(2).*

Alternatively, plaintiff may choose to select one defendant and set forth as many claims as he has against that single individual. *See Fed.R.Civ.P. 18(a).*

Plaintiff is reminded that he is required to submit his amended complaint on a court-provided form, and it must comply with Rules 8 and 10 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Specifically, in the "Caption" of the form complaint, plaintiff shall set forth the name of each defendant he wishes to sue; and in the "Statement of Claim," plaintiff shall start by typing the first defendant's name, and under that name, he shall set forth in separate numbered paragraphs the allegations supporting his claim(s) as to that particular defendant, as well as the right(s) that he claims that particular defendant violated. If plaintiff is suing more than one defendant, he shall proceed in this manner with each of the named defendants, separately setting forth each individual name and under that name, in numbered paragraphs, the allegations specific to that particular defendant and the right(s) that he claims that particular defendant violated.

The amended complaint must contain short and plain statements showing that plaintiff is entitled to relief, the allegations must be simple, concise, and direct, and the numbered paragraphs must each be limited to a single set of circumstances. If plaintiff needs more space, he may attach additional sheets of paper to the amended complaint and identify them as part of the "Caption" or "Statement of Claim."

Because the Court is allowing plaintiff to amend his complaint, it will take no action as to the named defendants at this time. Plaintiff is advised that the amended complaint will replace the original complaint and will be the only pleading this Court reviews. *See, e.g., In re Wireless Telephone Federal Cost Recovery Fees Litigation*, 396 F.3d 922, 928 (8th Cir. 2005).

Last, if plaintiff wishes to pursue additional claims against additional defendants, and the claims do not arise from the same transaction or occurrence he has chosen to advance in his amended complaint, he must file each such claim(s) on a separate complaint form and either pay the \$400 filing fee or file a motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis and certified inmate account statement.

Accordingly,

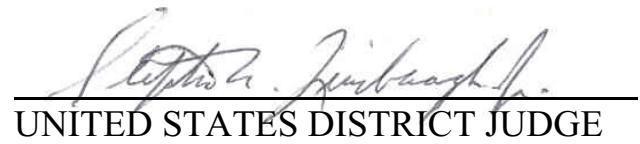
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Clerk shall mail to plaintiff a copy of the Court's form Prisoner Civil Rights Complaint.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, consistent with this Order, plaintiff shall file an amended complaint on the Court-provided form within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if plaintiff fails to comply with this Order,

the Court will dismiss this action without prejudice. If the case is dismissed, the dismissal will not constitute a “strike” under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).

Dated this 19th day of November, 2013.



UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE